IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note that all claim amendments made herein are shown below, in clean form, for clarity. A marked up version of the amendments is attached.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A recombinant nucleic acid molecule derived from a precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule, said recombinant nucleic acid molecule produced by the action of a nucleic acid polymerase in a complementing cell on the precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule; wherein

said precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule is based on or derived from an adenovirus,

said precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule has at least one functional inverted terminal repeat,

said precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule lacks overlapping sequences with the nucleic acid of said complementing cell into which it is transferred, said complementing cell comprising at least the E1A gene of an adenovirus, said overlapping sequences otherwise enabling homologous recombination leading to replication competent virus in said complementing cell,

said precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises all other adenovirus derived genetic information not present in said complementing cell and necessary for replication but no functional encapsidation signal, and

said precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule is in a linear and essentially single stranded form and comprises, at the precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule's 3' terminus, a sequence complementary to an upstream part of the same strand of the precursor recombinant nucleic acid molecule, to allow said sequence and said upstream part to form base pairs and function as a start-site for a nucleic acid polymerase.

Please add the following new claims:

6. (New) A cell comprising the recombinant nucleic acid molecule of claim1.

7. (New) A method of propagating a helper-dependent adenovirus in a complementing cell, comprising:

providing the recombinant nucleic acid of claim 1 to a complementing cell; and

propagating the helper-dependent adenovirus in said complementing cell.